

Claims

- [c1] 1. An eye target apparatus for use in helping to control an operative eye focus line of sight axis position during medical procedures on the operative eye, comprising:
- (a) a housing for occluding substantially all visual perception from an exterior environment for a non operative eye, said housing including a cover, said cover also including an internal surface that forms a plane positioned approximately perpendicular to the non operative eye line of sight axis;
 - (b) a visually perceptible element adjacent to said cover internal surface being in visual communication with the non operative eye; and
 - (c) means for moving said visually perceptible element within the plane to any selected position, wherein said eye target apparatus is operational to help the non operative eye focus on a selected line of sight focus axis position upon said visually perceptible element with the result in assisting in the operative eye achieving a stable selected line of sight focus axis position with minimal operative eye movement from the selected line of sight focus axis position.

- [c2] 2. An eye target apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said visually perceptible element is a color that is visually perceptible against a white background.
- [c3] 3. An eye target apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said visually perceptible element is a light emitting diode (LED) including circuitry in electrical communication to said light emitting diode (LED), said circuitry is disposed on an exterior of said housing.
- [c4] 4. An eye target apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said light emitting diode (LED) is red in color.
- [c5] 5. An eye target apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said circuitry includes a control operative to activate said light emitting diode (LED).
- [c6] 6. An eye target apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said housing is constructed of a surrounding sidewall extending from said cover to define a housing interior separated from the exterior environment, said surrounding sidewall including an end portion opposite of said cover that creates an opening communicating between the housing interior and the exterior environment.
- [c7] 7. An eye target apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising a flange portion adjacent to said surrounding sidewall end portion, wherein said flange portion is op-

erational to rest against a patient's facial contour adjacent to the non operative eye.

- [c8] 8. An eye target apparatus according to claim 7 further comprising a resilient housing mounting pad adjacent to said flange portion, wherein said mounting pad is operational to conform to a patient's facial contour adjacent to the non operative eye.
- [c9] 9. An eye target apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said resilient housing mounting pad includes an adhesive, wherein said adhesive is operational to removably attach said resilient housing mounting pad to the patient's facial contour adjacent to the non operative eye.
- [c10] 10. An eye target apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a sterile package that contains said eye target apparatus.
- [c11] 11. An eye target apparatus for use in helping to control an operative eye focus line of sight axis position during medical procedures on the operative eye, comprising:
 - (a) a housing for occluding substantially all visual perception from an exterior environment for a non operative eye, said housing including a cover with an aperture, said cover also including an internal surface that forms a plane positioned approximately perpendicular to the non

operative eye line of sight axis;

(b) a cap having a slidable engagement with said cover, said cap is sized and configured to substantially occlude said aperture through a selected range of said slidable engagement; and

(c) a visually perceptible element disposed upon said cap being in visual communication with the non operative eye, said visually perceptible element is positioned to be adjacent to said cover internal surface, wherein said eye target apparatus is operational to help the non operative eye focus on a selected line of sight focus axis position upon said visually perceptible element with the result in assisting in the operative eye achieving a stable selected line of sight focus axis position with minimal operative eye movement from the selected line of sight focus axis position.

[c12] 12. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a lockable element adjacent to said cover and said cap, said lockable element is further accessible from the exterior environment, wherein said lockable element is operational to help prevent relative movement between said cap and said cover, when said lockable element is in a locked state after said cap is moved to a selected position and said lockable element allowing free relative movement between said cap and

said cover when said lockable element is in an unlocked state.

[c13] 13. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising indicia disposed upon said cover and said cap to be visible from the exterior environment, said indicia is operational to indicate the relative selected position between said cap and said cover.

[c14] 14. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said cap has a finger grip disposed upon said cap being positioned to be accessible from the external environment, wherein said finger grip is operational to assist in moving said cap relative to said cover.

[c15] 15. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a cap retainer element that is adjacent to said cap, said cap retainer element is positioned to slidably engage said cover on a side opposite of said cap slidable engagement, wherein said cap retainer element is operational to help further retain said cap to said cover during relative movement between said cap and said cover.

[c16] 16. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a cover retainer element that is adjacent to said cover, said cover retainer element is positioned to

slidably engage said cap on a side opposite of said cap slidable engagement, wherein said cover retainer element is operational to help further retain said cap to said cover during relative movement between said cap and said cover.

- [c17] 17. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said visually perceptible element is a color that is visually perceptible against a white background.
- [c18] 18. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said visually perceptible element is a light emitting diode (LED) including circuitry in electrical communication to said light emitting diode (LED), said circuitry is disposed on an exterior of said housing.
- [c19] 19. An eye target apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said light emitting diode (LED) is red in color.
- [c20] 20. An eye target apparatus according to claim 18 wherein said circuitry includes a control operative to activate said light emitting diode (LED).
- [c21] 21. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said housing is constructed of a surrounding sidewall extending from said cover to define a housing interior separated from the exterior environment, said surrounding sidewall including an end portion opposite

of said cover that creates an opening communicating between the housing interior and the exterior environment.

- [c22] 22. An eye target apparatus according to claim 21 further comprising a flange portion adjacent to said surrounding sidewall end portion, wherein said flange portion is operational to rest against a patient's facial contour adjacent to the non operative eye.
- [c23] 23. An eye target apparatus according to claim 22 further comprising a resilient housing mounting pad adjacent to said flange portion, wherein said mounting pad is operational to conform to a patient's facial contour adjacent to the non operative eye.
- [c24] 24. An eye target apparatus according to claim 23 wherein said resilient housing mounting pad includes an adhesive, wherein said adhesive is operational to removably attach said resilient housing mounting pad to the patient's facial contour adjacent to the non operative eye.
- [c25] 25. An eye target apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a sterile package that contains said eye target apparatus.
- [c26] 26. A method of using an eye target apparatus for use in helping to control an operative eye focus line of sight

axis position during medical procedures on the operative eye, comprising the steps of:

- (a) positioning a patient;
- (b) locating a medical device including a light source over the operative eye of the patient;
- (c) providing an eye target apparatus that includes a housing for occluding substantially all visual perception from an exterior environment for a non operative eye, said housing including a cover, said cover also including an internal surface that forms a plane positioned approximately perpendicular to the non operative eye focus line of sight axis, a visually perceptible element adjacent to said cover internal surface being in visual communication with the non operative eye, said visually perceptible element is normally unactivated, and a means for moving said visually perceptible element within the plane to any selected position;
- (d) placing said eye target apparatus over the non operative eye of the patient to occlude substantially all visual perception from the exterior environment for the non operative eye;
- (e) instructing the patient to open their operative and non operative eyes for a selected period;
- (f) activating said visually perceptible element at the conclusion of said selected period;
- (g) confirming that the patient sees said visually percep-

tible element substantially centered in said light source to establish proper patient operative eye and non operative eye focus line of sight axes;

(h) moving said visually perceptible element to a selected position to further establish a desired patient operative eye focus line of sight axis position; and

(i) performing required medical procedure on the operative eye.

[c27] 27. A method of using an eye target apparatus according to claim 26 further comprising a subsequent step of instructing the patient to keep their operative eye and non operative eye focus line of sight axis positions steady upon said visually perceptible element when said light source changes position.

[c28] 28. A method of using an eye target apparatus according to claim 26 further comprising a subsequent step of instructing the patient to move their operative eye and non operative eye focus line of sight axis positions relative to said visually perceptible element for a selected period using said visually perceptible element as a reference focus line of sight point for both the operative eye and the non operative eye.